

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A printing apparatus for printing on a printing medium using a printhead, comprising:
  - 5 an interface which is connected to a host and receives information from the host;
  - a memory for storing characteristic information of the printhead;
  - 10 discriminating means for discriminating whether or not a command sent from the host is a command including the characteristic information of the printhead;
  - 15 write control means for controlling to write the characteristic information of the printhead into said memory in accordance with a discrimination result of said discriminating means; and
  - printing control means for controlling the printhead to print in accordance with the characteristic information written into said memory.
- 20 2. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the characteristic information includes type information of the printhead, and
  - 25 said write control means controls to write the characteristic information of the printhead for each type of printhead.

3. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the  
printhead is a printhead detachable from a printing  
apparatus main body, and is a printhead attached to  
said printing apparatus by selecting from plural types  
5 of printheads by a user.

4. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said  
discriminating means includes means for receiving a  
command outputted from the host to which the  
10 characteristic information of the printhead indicated  
on the printhead or an accessory of the printhead in a  
format identifiable to human or an electronic device is  
inputted by man-machine interactive operation or the  
electronic device.

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5. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the  
printhead is an inkjet printhead for printing by  
discharging ink.

20 6. The apparatus according to claim 5, wherein the  
inkjet printhead comprises an electrothermal transducer  
for generating heat energy to be given to ink so as to  
discharge ink by utilizing the heat energy.

25 7. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said  
memory includes an EEPROM.

8. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the command sent from the host is a command outputted from the host which is externally instructed or receives an instruction.

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9. The apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the format identifiable to human is at least one of a digit and a character string.

10 10. The apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the format identifiable to an electronic device is a barcode.

11. The apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the  
15 indication in a format identifiable to human or an electronic device is a described, adhered or formed indication.

12. A printing system including a printing apparatus  
20 according to claim 1, and a host connecting to the printing apparatus and capable of communicating with a second system via a network, said host comprising:

input means for inputting individual information of a printhead indicated on the printhead or an  
25 accessory of the printhead in a format identifiable to human or an electronic device via man-machine interactive operation or the electronic device;

retrieve means for accessing to the second system  
via the network on the basis of the individual  
information of the printhead inputted by said input  
means, and retrieving characteristic information of the  
5 printhead corresponding to the individual information  
of the printhead; and

transfer means for transferring the  
characteristic information of the printhead retrieved  
by said retrieve means to the printing apparatus.

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13. The printing system according to claim 12,  
wherein the network includes a LAN or Internet.

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14. The printing system according to claim 12,  
wherein the individual information of the print head is  
a production number of the printhead.

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15. The printing system according to claim 12,  
wherein said second system has a database in which  
information is retrievable via the network, and  
the database holds characteristic information of  
the printhead corresponding to the individual  
information of the printhead.

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16. The printing system according to claim 12,  
wherein the format identifiable to human is at least  
one of a digit and a character string.

17. The printing system according to claim 16,  
wherein said input means inputs said at least one of  
the digit and character string by the man-machine  
5 interactive operation.

18. The printing system according to claim 12,  
wherein the format identifiable to the electronic  
device is a barcode.

10 19. The printing system according to claim 18,  
wherein the electronic device is a barcode reader.

20. The printing system according to claim 12,  
15 wherein the indication in a format identifiable to  
human or an electronic device is a described, adhered  
or formed indication.

21. A printhead to which information is appended,  
20 wherein the information is inputted to a host computer,  
which transmits print information to a printing  
apparatus to which said printhead is mounted for  
printing, so as to output characteristics information  
of said printhead based on the information to the  
25 printing apparatus.

22. An accompanying material to which information is appended, wherein the material is accompanied with a printhead, the information is inputted to a host computer, which transmits print information to a

5 printing apparatus to which said printhead is mounted for printing, so as to output characteristics information of said printhead based on the information to the printing apparatus.